

have free and fair elections when you do not let the opponents campaign, or you let them campaign, but solely door to door, no mail, no advertising, no public billboards? There is no freedom for the opposition to get their word out.

In fact, today as I was coming down to the floor, I just received an e-mail, a great thing with the new technologies today, the ability to find out what is going on, and I want to read this to my colleagues: "According to the press release distributed by the office of the single candidate from the unified Belarusian opposition, Alexander Milinkevych, this morning, after a meeting of Milinkevych with voters in the 'Byarestse' cinema theater, five representatives of his team, including," a friend of mine who I have met a couple times, "Vintsuk Viachorka were held by the police and driven away. The opposition activists might have been beaten. For the moment, it is not clear where they are. Their mobile phones are switched off."

Now, what is really problematic about this is that usually the Belarusians, through the use of the KGB and the uniformed police, are very proud when they grab people who want to run for elected office, and they proudly display the fact that they are held in police custody. Well, we do not know where these gentlemen are. And we have no idea, there has been no claims of who has them. So, really, the basic plea right now is where are they.

That is just a symbol of people would not believe that in Europe that we would still have this subversion of freedom and democracy.

So I want to thank the International Relations Committee, of course my good friend and colleague from Illinois, HENRY HYDE, and the ranking member, of course, CHRIS SMITH, who has done such a great job, and Chairman GALLEGLY, who was very helpful to me in moving this legislation because we talk about the issues of freedom a lot on this floor. I think our Founding Fathers would be very proud that we still take up that torch of freedom for all people, and, yeah, we may be accused of being biased to some extent at some time, but we are a human institution, and we need friends on both sides who will call us to account that freedom is good enough for all the countries in Europe and even in the last dictatorship. It is good enough for other areas around the world, and I am one that is not ashamed of standing up for freedom and democracy.

This is a great resolution. It is very timely. As we know, the election is coming, and we have got our fellow freedom fighters being jailed for activities that we take for granted here in the United States. This is right that we send a signal, and I am proud to join you, and I want to thank the ranking member, and I want to thank my colleague, Congressman SMITH, for the opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the country of Belarus and their ongoing

struggle for free and fair elections. The last dictator in Europe, Aleksander Lukashenko, rules this country through a combination of intimidation and fear, suppressing the voices and rights of the Belarusian people as they watch their neighbors in Georgia and in the Ukraine rise up and take back their countries to emerge as thriving democracies.

I am proud to be the sponsor of H. Res. 673, along with my colleague Mr. GALLEGLY. This legislation, among many other things, pledges the support of the United States House of Representatives to the Belarusian people, and calls for a free and open election. Unfortunately, as we have seen in many events covered in the past week this will most likely not happen for the Belarusian people on March 19th. Instead the ongoing cycle of violence and intimidation will steal another election for Mr. Lukashenko.

I encourage my colleagues to stand with me in the support of the Belarusian people and keep them in your thoughts and prayers in this difficult time. As President Bush said, "The fate of Belarus will rest not with a dictator, but with the students, trade unionists, civic and religious leaders, journalists, and all citizens of Belarus claiming freedom for their nation." I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution.

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Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) for authoring this legislation. It sends a clear, unmistakable message to the Lukashenko dictatorship, and a message of solidarity and concern to the people that hopefully there will be a brighter day for this important country. But it is only because of ongoing, dogged determination on the part of the pro-democracy advocates inside that country and their friends outside, like Mr. LANTOS, Mr. HYDE, Mr. SHIMKUS, and others; that we keep the pressure on from without so that someday human rights and democracy will flourish in Belarus.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 673.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that

all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 673.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

FINANCIAL SERVICES REGULATORY RELIEF ACT OF 2005

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3505) to provide regulatory relief and improve productivity for insured depository institutions, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3505

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the "Financial Services Regulatory Relief Act of 2005".

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. *Short title; table of contents.*

TITLE I—NATIONAL BANK PROVISIONS

Sec. 101. *National bank directors.*

Sec. 102. *Voting in shareholder elections.*

Sec. 103. *Simplifying dividend calculations for national banks.*

Sec. 104. *Repeal of obsolete limitation on removal authority of the Comptroller of the Currency.*

Sec. 105. *Repeal of intrastate branch capital requirements.*

Sec. 106. *Clarification of waiver of publication requirements for bank merger notices.*

Sec. 107. *Equal treatment for Federal agencies of foreign banks.*

Sec. 108. *Maintenance of a Federal branch and a Federal agency in the same State.*

Sec. 109. *Business organization flexibility for national banks.*

Sec. 110. *Clarification of the main place of business of a national bank.*

Sec. 111. *Capital equivalency deposits for Federal branches and agencies of foreign banks.*

Sec. 112. *Enhancing the authority for national banks to make community development investments.*

TITLE II—SAVINGS ASSOCIATION PROVISIONS

Sec. 201. *Parity for savings associations under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.*

Sec. 202. *Investments by Federal savings associations authorized to promote the public welfare.*

Sec. 203. *Mergers and consolidations of Federal savings associations with non-depository institution affiliates.*

Sec. 204. *Repeal of statutory dividend notice requirement for savings association subsidiaries of savings and loan holding companies.*

Sec. 205. *Modernizing statutory authority for trust ownership of savings associations.*

Sec. 206. *Repeal of overlapping rules governing purchased mortgage servicing rights.*

Sec. 207. *Restatement of authority for Federal savings associations to invest in small business investment companies.*